

**ELK MANAGEMENT CITIZEN ADVISORY GROUP**  
**DRAFT CHARTER**  
**APRIL 14, 2022**

**Purpose**

The purpose of the advisory group is to forge new relationships among stakeholders and collaboratively develop new and creative ideas and recommendations for issues surrounding elk management in Montana to balance hunter and landowner interests. These issues include chronically over objective elk populations in some areas, new disease concerns, continuing calls for more access, and increasing reports of crowded public lands. The recommendations must be within FWP’s regulatory authority (i.e., what FWP can do or what the legislature allows FWP to do).

**Advisory Group Membership and Authority**

The 12-member Advisory Group will represent a variety of stakeholders who are interested in moving past old debates that have not significantly improved elk circumstances for hunters or landowners and revisiting old issues with fresh eyes to identify new solutions. Members are asked to represent those most directly affected, while also being willing to hear other perspectives and be open to new ideas from landowners and hunters alike.

The facilitator and FWP employees will provide data and serve as an administrative resource for the group. While the advisory group is responsible for generating ideas and recommendations, authority to implement lies with FWP.

Each member of the advisory group is expected to actively participate in meetings and assignments. Prior to finalizing recommendations, each member also is asked to give careful consideration to public input, and to feedback from a larger “sounding board” group (described below) associated with this effort. Every member is expected to help draft, propose, and champion the recommendations made to the Director.

If a member no longer wishes to participate in the group, they will not be replaced by another. A member may be removed from the group if they become unmanageable, troublesome, or offensively off topic. The group must decide through consensus to remove another member.

**Members:**

Aaron Iverson	Brent Race
Heath Hansen	Chuck Rein
Staci Ketchum	Scott Tinklenberg
Race King	Scott Van Dyken
Druska Kinkie	Ian Wargo
Stephanie Prater	Matt Wickens

### **Deliverable and Timeline**

Final recommendations will be provided to the FWP Director no later than July 31, 2022. Specifically, the group is expected to justify the recommendations, as well as ideas for moving them forward. The Director will decide how to proceed with the recommendations. If needed, implementation of recommendations will be prioritized to delineate near-term versus long-term needs.

### **Coordination**

The FWP Special Projects Unit (SPU) will serve as the primary interface between the advisory group, its facilitator, and FWP, which will assist the group in process and communication of the group's progress with the public.

Elk Management Citizen Advisory Group members may choose to contact each other outside of the scheduled meetings. FWP SPU will provide a list of each member and their preferred method of contact (e.g., phone number or email address). Members are expected to be respectful, courteous, and willing to hear other perspectives and be open to new ideas in these conversations. Members should also report out or summarize these conversations to the Elk Management Citizen Advisory Group, as necessary.

All Elk Management Citizen Advisory Group meeting will abide by open meeting laws as described in the section "Open Meeting Laws Guidance" below.

### **Operating Procedures**

The advisory group will meet up to 10 times between March and July 2022 to accomplish its assignment (some work may be accomplished outside of meetings). If Elk Management Citizen Advisory Group members are not able to attend a meeting, the member is responsible for informing all Elk Management Citizen Advisory Group members that they will not be able to attend the meeting.

The dates and times of the Elk Management Citizen Advisory Group meetings are listed below:

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>
April 14, 2022	8-12:00 pm
April 28, 2022	8-12:00 pm
May 10, 2022	1-5:00 pm
May 25, 2022	8-12:00 pm
June 7, 2022	1-5:00 pm
June 21, 2022	1-5:00 pm
July 7, 2022	1-5:00 pm
July 13, 2022	1-5:00 pm
July 26, 2022	1-5:00 pm

### Decision Making Process

The Elk Management Citizen Advisory Group will be drafted, proposed, and champion recommendations developed. The diagram below and subsequent description of the steps clarify how the recommendations/set of recommendations will be drafted, proposed, and championed. In addition to these steps, the Elk Management Citizen Advisory Group members clarified the following about the decision-making process:

- The public (which may or may not include sounding board members) will have an opportunity to provide comments and feedback in every Elk Management Citizen Advisory Group meeting
- The sounding board members will be requested to provide specific feedback above and beyond the public feedback at three times in the process: articulate values, assessing consequences, and evaluate options
- The beginning of each meeting will have time set aside for the Elk Management Citizen Advisory Group members to report out on comments and communication with the public, as necessary
- There is a strong emphasis on having a high level of support for the recommendations (higher than the 70% or 9 members), and recognition of the importance of champion recommendations
- The decision-making process is a guideline to follow, and it is recognized that flexibility may be needed

Figure 1: Draft Decision-Making Process



### Step 1: Discussion Phase

In the discussion phase, the Elk Management Citizen Advisory Group will collaboratively draft a recommendation or a set of recommendations for issues surrounding elk management in Montana to balance hunter and landowner interests. The Elk Management Citizen Advisory Group will follow the identified practices for collaboration identified below:

- We should be transparent in this process; it is critical
- We should trust (but verify)
- We should be honest
- We should make sure all the facts are out and discussed
- We should make sure there are strict guideline to stay on track (i.e., good agenda)
- We should show and have respect for each other
- We should be inclusive
- We should recognize words are important and their meaning matters
- We should believe that someone is saying the truth when they speak
- We should understand that a lack of understanding leads to conflict
- We should recognize that an “us against them” scenario causes conflict
- We should understand that we will be misunderstood (by the public and each other)
- We should recognize everyone will be in the “absolutely not” point at some point and we should all think about what that feels like
- We should enlist help when needed
- We should recognize that leaders have to make decisions (sometimes tough decisions)
- We should strive for over 50% agreement, and to sell it in the end
- We should remember that we represent people that have similar opinions
- We should work to identify the problem
- We should work in a small and intimate group setting
- We should recognize that current FWP projects still work
- We should take into consideration the past
- We should recognize that if there is an absolute no, then we can find another way around

### Step 2: First Motion for a Recommendation/Set of Recommendations

The first motion can be made by any member of the Elk Management Citizen Advisory Group. It is expected that when the first motion is made, there will be support among the members for the recommendation as there will be a sense of “where the members stand”. The motion will lead to a vote to determine if the recommendation/set of recommendations can be sent to the sounding board.

### Step 3: First Vote for a Recommendation/Set of Recommendations

The first vote must occur with all representative members of the Elk Management Citizen Advisory Group. The vote can occur in the meeting, via email, or a combination to ensure all members have an opportunity to vote. A vote will lead to the approval or denial of submitting the recommendation/set of recommendations to the sounding board. If a vote receives a 70% (9 members) or more member approval from the Elk Management Citizen Advisory Group members, the recommendation/set of recommendations will be sent to the sounding board for review and feedback.

To approve a recommendation/set of recommendations, the representative voting members of the Elk Management Citizen Advisory Group must believe it is a “good set of recommendations to send to Montana Fish, Wildlife and Park.” In other words, there must be buy-in to the recommendation to some degree. This does not mean there needs to be full agreement on every aspect of the recommendation or for each recommendation, if in a set. It does mean that the voting members believe it should be sent to Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks, for consideration.

#### Step 4: Submit Recommendation/Set of Recommendations for Review

A recommendation/set of recommendations that receive a “approval” vote will be sent to the sounding board for review and feedback. The Elk Management Citizen Advisory Group will clarify the process of sending information to the sounding board to ensure information that is collected from the sounding board is also used.

#### Step 5: Review and Discuss Feedback Received

The Elk Management Citizen Advisory Group members will review and discuss the feedback on the recommendation/set of recommendations provided by the sounding board. The Elk Management Citizen Advisory Group will follow the guidelines as listed in “Step 1: Discussion Phase” of the decision-making process. Adjustments to the recommendation/set of recommendations will be made by the Elk Management Citizen Advisory Group as needed.

#### Step 6: Second Motion for a Recommendation/Set of Recommendations

The second motion can be made by any member of the Elk Management Citizen Advisory Group. It is expected that when the second motion is made, there will be support among the members for the recommendation as there will be a sense of “where the members stand”. The motion will lead to a vote to determine if the recommendation/set of recommendations can be sent to the Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks for consideration.

#### Step 7: Second Vote for a Recommendation/Set of Recommendations

The first vote must occur with all representative members of the Elk Management Citizen Advisory Group. The vote can occur in the meeting, via email, or a combination to ensure all members have an opportunity to vote. A vote will lead to the approval or denial of submitting the recommendation/set of recommendations to the Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks for consideration. If a vote receives a 70% (9 members) or more member approval from the Elk Management Citizen Advisory Group members, the recommendation/set of recommendations will be sent to the Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks for consideration. If a set or package of recommendations is made, each recommendation in the set/package will be voted on. A ranking of the recommendations (from most support to least support) will be presented to Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks for consideration.

To approve a recommendation/set of recommendations the representative voting members of the Elk Management Citizen Advisory Group must believe it is a “good set of recommendations to send to Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks”. In other words, there must be buy-in to the recommendation to some degree. This does not mean there needs to be full agreement on every aspect of the recommendation or for each recommendation, if in a set. It does mean that the voting members believe it should be sent to Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks for consideration.

#### Step 8: Finalize and Champion Recommendations

A recommendation/set of recommendations that receive an “approval” vote will be sent to the Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks for consideration. Elk Management Citizen Advisory Group members that voted

to approve the recommendation/set of recommendations will champion the recommendation/set of recommendations describe as “you vote it, you own it.”

The Elk Management Citizen Advisory Group recognized that the finalized recommendations/set of recommendations does not mean that current FWP projects do not work.

### **Additional Public Involvement**

Applicants who did not get selected to be a member of the advisory group will be invited to be a “sounding board” member. Advisory group members will request feedback on articulating values, assessing consequences, and evaluating options. This group as a larger set of directly interested people for vetting ideas and recommendations. Additionally, a certain amount of time at each meeting will be dedicated to hearing from the public on issues discussed.

### **Communication with the Public**

Elk Management Citizen Advisory Group members may choose to communicate with the public. The form and manner of the communication is at the individual member’s discretion. Members may opt for their preferred contact information (e.g., phone number, email address) listed on the FWP public-facing website for the public to contact them directly. In these external communications, members represent their individual thoughts, and beliefs. A single member does not represent or reflect the Elk Management Citizen Advisory Group as a whole. Members should consider sharing key insights or summaries of conversations with the Elk Management Citizen Advisory Group, as applicable.

Members should not share personal information about fellow Elk Management Citizen Advisory Group members (e.g., contact information) with the public without prior consent from the identified member.